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LETTER DATED 24 JUNE 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

With reference to Security Council resolution 1054 (1996), I have the honour to enclose herewith a report containing the efforts and measures taken by the Government of the Sudan and its cooperation in the implementation of this resolution.

Having enclosed this report, the Government of the Sudan wishes to recall the continuous efforts exerted by the Sudan in complying with Security Council resolution 1044 (1996) and the statements of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity for Prevention, Management and Resolution of Disputes in a consistent manner as a manifestation of its full commitment to principles of the United Nations Charter and international peace and security. In this regard I wish to reiterate the condemnation of the Sudan in the strongest terms to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as the Sudan's full adherence to the principles of good-neighbourliness and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

I take this opportunity to request that this letter and its enclosures be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali M. O: YASSIN
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Report on the measures taken by the Sudan pursuant to Security Council resolution 1054 (1996)

The present report summarizes recent developments relating to the attempted assassination of the President of Egypt and the measures and initiatives taken by the Sudan pursuant to the provisions of Security Council resolution 1054 (1996).

I. THE SEARCH FOR THE THREE SUSPECTS

1. Mustafa Hamza, the prime suspect

(a) Shortly before Security Council resolution 1054 (1996) was adopted, the London newspaper Al-Hayat, in its issue for 21 April 1996, published an interview that had been conducted by its correspondent Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan with prime suspect Mustafa Hamza at his place of residence in the Konar province of Afghanistan. In the interview, Hamza indicated that the Sudan was innocent of the charges made against it. In the same connection, on 23 April 1996 the London network MBC showed a video-taped interview with the suspect Mustafa Hamza at his place of residence in Afghanistan in which he indicated, inter alia, that the Sudan had no involvement in the matters with which it was charged.

(b) On 23 April 1996, according to a report published in the newspaper Al-Hayat, the Ambassador of Afghanistan in Cairo stated that prime suspect Mustafa Hamza was in Afghan territory in an area that was not under the control of his Government.

(c) On 23 May 1996, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed a letter to his Sudanese counterpart informing him that the prime suspect in the attempted assassination of the President of Egypt, namely Mustafa Hamza, was not in the territory under the control of the State and that certain information indicated that he had been seen in areas under the control of the Taleban.

(d) In its issue for 6 May 1996, the magazine Al-Wasat published a report by its Cairo correspondent, Ayman Kamal, that Egypt had requested the Pakistani Government to help in the apprehension of Mustafa Hamza by bringing pressure to bear on the Taleban movement. The request had been made to the Pakistani Ambassador in Cairo by the Director of the Asia Department in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The magazine pointed out that Egypt accorded particular importance to Pakistan's help in connection with this request and indicated that the Pakistani Ambassador had given assurances of his country's readiness to provide all possible assistance in this regard.

2. Muhammad Siraj, the number two suspect

Given the difficulties encountered by the Government of the Sudan in seeking the suspects because of the paucity of information available to it, the Sudanese authorities concerned again requested assistance from the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol) in the efforts being made to apprehend the suspects.

From the above it is clear that:

(a) The extensive investigations carried out by the authorities concerned in the Sudan have produced no trace of the suspects and no evidence of their presence in the Sudan;

(b) The statements made by the prime suspect, Mustafa Hamza, indicate that suspect number two is in a country other than the Sudan, and this corroborates the results reached by the investigation conducted by the Sudanese authorities concerned.

3. Yasim, the number three suspect

(a) The identity of suspect number three is unknown, because the identification data and description provided by the Ethiopian authorities are deficient and incomplete. The Ethiopian request to the Government of the Sudan is incomplete, and no photograph of the suspect is attached. The full text of the information provided in the request is as follows:

Izat/Yasim

True name:	--
Nationality:	Egyptian
Height:	5 feet, 7 inches
Skin colour:	Medium dark complexion
Hair colour:	Black, short; no facial hair
Age:	Approximately 34 years old
Build:	Thin frame
Special marks:	No obvious scars. Does not wear glasses. Wears a metal-case Casio digital watch on his left hand.
Marital status:	Married

(b) Ethiopia has not yet managed to provide any additional information in this regard.

(c) In the statements indicated above, the prime suspect denies that there ever was a third suspect.

4. The Sudan has demonstrated its desire and readiness to cooperate with all parties concerned in seeking and apprehending the suspects, and it has affirmed that fact in its contacts with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the United Nations and, repeatedly, with ICPO/Interpol.

5. The difficulties that surround the issue are confirmed by the information that has reached us concerning the postponement of the secret trial of the three suspects in Addis Ababa, as indicated in the Ethiopian press. It would seem that the court, after hearing the statements of witnesses, requested the Public Prosecutor to present further evidence to substantiate the charge. This is according to the report on page 8 of the issue of Press Digest for 23 May 1996, quoting from the newspaper Addis Zemin.

6. The Government of the Sudan, in citing the above developments and measures, would like to affirm that it respects and is in full compliance with all the relevant international and regional covenants. It reaffirms its readiness to cooperate with all parties with a view to apprehending the suspects and bringing them to justice.

II. ALLEGATIONS THAT THE SUDAN SUPPORTS TERRORISM

The Government of the Sudan affirms its condemnation and rejection of all forms of terrorism. It further affirms that it complies with all the covenants and agreements aimed at combating and eliminating terrorism in all its forms. The present report sets forth the steps taken by the Sudan to terminate the sojourn of certain nationals of foreign countries in order to avert accusations or suspicions.

The Government of the Sudan would like to state at the outset that, at the present time, its criminal and political records contain no charges and no evidence, from any person or any State, against those who are the subject of this report. The presence of these persons in the Sudan has been based on the purely humanitarian considerations that are respected by all countries.

After an overhaul of the entry-visa system and a survey and review of the cases of all foreigners who had entered the Sudan in the situation that had previously prevailed, and which did not provide for arrangements or specific measures for entry or residence, measures were taken to ensure the departure from Sudanese territory of certain groups.

1. Egyptians

Thirty-seven Egyptians have left Sudanese territory. Of the Egyptians who were in the Sudan, there remain only those who were there in an official capacity, such as those working at the Egyptian Embassy or in the Egyptian irrigation offices in the Sudan.

A list of the names of Egyptians who have left the Sudan has been handed over to the Egyptian authorities, and the Sudan has affirmed its readiness to cooperate with the Egyptian Government in checking those who remain.

2. "Afghan Arabs"

Those known as "Afghan Arabs" have been surveyed, and all of them have already left Sudanese territory.

3. Usamah Bin Ladin

The Arab investor Usamah Bin Ladin has also left the Sudan, having done so on 19 May 1996, and the United Nations was informed accordingly in a letter circulated as Security Council document S/1996/402 on 31 May 1996.

4. Palestinians

The situation and status of the Palestinian nationals to whom reference was made in the meetings of the Council is being reviewed in cooperation with the Embassy of Palestine in Khartoum. Some groups have left the Sudan.

The Government of the Sudan, in citing in this report the measures it has taken to eliminate any doubts concerning its attitude towards terrorism, once again affirms its continuing policy of exercising close scrutiny in order to prevent the issue to suspicious persons of visas for entry into, transit through or residence in Sudanese territory. It further affirms its readiness to cooperate with any country that has information concerning the presence in the Sudan of any persons who pose a threat to that country's security and safety.

III. SUDAN'S RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBOURING STATES

In accordance with the deeply rooted principles of its civilization and culture, the Sudan is strongly committed to non-interference in the internal affairs of other States and strives tirelessly to promote bilateral relations and regional cooperation, particularly with the neighbouring States among which it finds itself in an area that has been throughout history a crossroads of integration and an example of Afro-Arab coexistence. Despite the adverse developments that have affected the country's relations with some of its neighbours, the Sudan takes pride in its distinctive relations with neighbouring States, and it is endeavouring to promote and develop those relations so as to ensure wider prospects for cooperation and bilateral and regional integration.

(a) The Sudan's relationship with Kenya has undergone a process of constant development, and the two countries have cooperated fully in promoting their political, economic and social interests under the guidance of a joint ministerial committee. Kenya has also acted as host to Sudanese refugees, and part of Operation Lifeline Sudan, which provides relief to those affected by the war in the southern Sudan, has been based there. Kenya has, moreover, led the efforts made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) for a peaceful solution to the problem of the southern Sudan. This is an example of the Sudan's willing acceptance of regional cooperation in addressing an issue that concerns the region as a whole even if it is internal in nature.

(b) The Sudan maintained close relations with Eritrea from its accession to independence until 1993, and its relations with the newly emerging State evinced friendship and cooperation. The Sudan extended a helping hand to the Eritrean people, sheltered very large numbers of refugees from Eritrea, and participated in the referendum and the building of the country's political institutions. When independence was proclaimed, the Sudan was the first country to recognize

the independent State of Eritrea, and the President of the Sudan was the first head of State to visit it. A ministerial committee was formed by the two countries through which the Sudan participated in providing technical and material assistance to Eritrea, and the Sudan prevented any military or political activity among the refugees in the Sudan that was aimed against the Eritrean Government.

Although the Sudan has demonstrated its benevolent intentions towards Eritrea, the latter has constantly made unfounded accusations against the Sudan. Eritrea broke off diplomatic relations and then proceeded to hand over the premises of the Sudanese Embassy to opposition elements, in violation of diplomatic practice. It sponsored a conference of the Sudanese opposition and the rebel movement, and it endorsed the conference's decisions calling for the overthrow of the regime in the Sudan by military means. The Head of State of Eritrea stated this explicitly, expressing his readiness to support anyone who took up arms to bring down the regime in the Sudan. Military training camps were opened for the same purpose, and a correspondent for the British Broadcasting Corporation has visited these camps (see document S/1996/358 of 21 May 1996).

(c) The Sudan's relations with Chad have been marked by stability and steady growth based on ongoing mutual understanding and cooperation through a joint ministerial committee that oversees all aspects of their relationship. In addition to a considerable expansion of their activities in the economic and social fields, the two countries have recently endeavoured to redraw and demarcate their common boundaries, a matter that had remained pending since colonial days. The Sudan also participated in the observer delegations during the recent elections in Chad, and it endeavoured to enable Chadians residing in the Sudan to participate in the voting. A tripartite presidential summit of the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic was recently held, and this is another example of the Sudan's approach to regional cooperation of a kind that is useful to the countries and peoples of the region (see document S/1996/294 of 17 April 1996).

(d) The Sudan's relations with the Central African Republic provide further evidence of relations of good-neighbourliness. The joint ministerial committees established by the two countries are engaged in ongoing, fully coordinated efforts to expand bilateral and regional cooperation. It was the Central African Republic that hosted the tripartite Sudan-Chad-Central African Republic summit in January 1996, and the countries are currently endeavouring to bring about the voluntary repatriation of refugees under United Nations supervision.

(e) The Sudan remains committed to maintaining relations with Uganda in conformity with the principles of good-neighbourliness. The President of the Sudan visited Uganda in 1990 in an endeavour to persuade the Ugandan President to desist from supporting the rebel movement that has constantly striven to undermine relations between the two countries. That visit and the efforts that followed it bore fruit in the signing of a security agreement in April 1990 that stipulated that no shelter or support should be provided to the opposition movements, that an endeavour should be made to establish a good relationship and that military observation posts should be established along the boundaries between the two countries. On 10 April 1994, however, Uganda demanded the

removal of the posts, indicating a premeditated intention to continue supporting the rebel movement and the aggression. Uganda then proceeded to exacerbate relations between the two countries by carrying out attacks on members of the Sudanese diplomatic mission and then, on 23 May 1995, by breaking off relations.

Despite the foregoing, the Sudan did not close the door to anyone offering mediation with a view to resolving the disputes between the two countries. The Sudan welcomed the mediation of the President of Austria and then of the Libyan Leader, which led to the signing of the Tripoli Declaration on 5 April 1995. However, Uganda undermined the Declaration by having the Chargé d'affaires of the Sudan declared persona non grata on 10 April 1995, a mere five days after the Declaration was signed.

The Sudan welcomed the initiative taken by the President of Malawi on 7 June 1995, which led to an agreement on the normalization of relations and the formation of a committee to supervise the process under the chairmanship of Malawi and with the Sudan and Uganda as members. Uganda absented itself from the meetings of the committee on a number of occasions, given its prior intent to commit aggression against the Sudan. The Ugandan President has spoken frankly of this to his parliament.

Subsequently, on 25 October 1995, Ugandan forces infiltrated into Sudanese territory as far as the towns of Farjuk and Maqwa in order to assist rebel forces.

The Sudan nevertheless exercised self-restraint and forbearance with regard to Uganda's actions and continued its efforts to devise a peaceful and lasting solution to the conflict. Accordingly, the Sudan welcomed the mission undertaken by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Malawi to revive his country's mediation efforts. However, Uganda, as is its custom, failed to attend the meeting scheduled for February 1996, which would indicate its contempt for mediation efforts aimed at mending relations between the two countries and its intention to continue the aggression, as revealed in its recent bombardment of the border town of Kana.

(f) The Sudan's expanded relations with Zaire, the mutual understanding and cooperation between officials of the two countries and their constant striving for the further promotion of their common bilateral and regional interests represent another example of the Sudan's commitment to and concern for its relations with its neighbours. The joint ministerial committee established by the two countries has advanced economic and social cooperation and has brought about the voluntary repatriation of refugees.

(g) Between the Sudan and Ethiopia relations of good-neighbourliness were built up over the many years in which joint ministerial committees were active. The boundaries between the two countries have been stable, and visits have been exchanged by the heads of State and by delegations from the two countries. There was cooperation at the regional level, as exemplified by the IGADD group. Despite the misunderstanding that arose following the attempted assassination of the President of Egypt, the Sudan has been pursuing a policy of self-restraint in addressing it. It will maintain its benevolent intentions towards Ethiopia and will endeavour to preserve the distinctive character of relations between

the two countries and peoples. In this connection, we recall that the Sudan made a point of sending the Chief of Staff of its armed forces to participate as an observer in the meeting of Chiefs of Staff of the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution. On that occasion, the Sudanese Chief of Staff took the initiative of meeting with his Ethiopian counterpart and of affirming the Sudan's desire to stabilize the situation between the two countries and to promote joint security cooperation.

(h) In the context of the Sudan's affirmative policies and its concrete commitment to good-neighbourliness and the promotion of regional cooperation with its neighbours, the country participated in the meetings of the IGADD Ministerial Council in Djibouti in April 1996 at which the Council took note of the Charter for Peace in the Sudan. The Sudan also participated in the meetings of IGADD experts held in Addis Ababa from 10 to 15 June 1996, which drafted regional cooperation programmes and projects in the fields of conflict resolution, food security and infrastructure, and it was elected Chairman of the Food Security Committee. The meetings also urged that there was a pressing need to activate the IGADD initiative for peace in the Sudan and to resolve conflicts between the States of the region through dialogue. The meetings closed, of course, with an encounter with donors and representatives of the international community, who commended the new approach of IGADD to the resolution of the problems of the region and the achievement of development for its peoples.

(i) Expanded relations between the Sudan and Libya are based on the same approach and they are overseen by the organs of integration in all political, economic and social fields. Libya is leading an endeavour to develop bilateral integration into regional integration with Egypt, and this is welcomed by the Sudan.

(j) Egypt is a neighbour to which we are connected by bonds of civilization and history and by ties of brotherhood. The Sudan's relations with Egypt have remained distinctive and strong, and they are unaffected by temporary disturbances. The Sudan is anxious to eliminate any misunderstanding relating to the attempt to assassinate the President of Egypt, which was condemned by the Sudan at the time it took place. The Sudan took the initiative in building bridges to its Egyptian brothers in two meetings held by its Minister for Foreign Affairs with his Egyptian counterpart in conjunction with the ceremony for the signing of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. On that occasion, the two parties affirmed that the national security of each country was complementary to that of the other, and they stressed the options of good-neighbourliness, non-aggression and the resolution of problems by peaceful means.

(k) The Sudan affirms its commitment to mending its relations with neighbouring countries, and it anticipates that they will share the same desire and the same firmness of purpose so that one and all may enjoy stability and the fruits of joint cooperation.

IV. CONCLUSION

In the foregoing, the Sudan hopes that it has provided reasons, evidence and testimony that will help the Security Council to review its resolutions 1044 (1996) and 1054 (1996) in the interests of justice. The Government of the Sudan further affirms its readiness to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the United Nations in all matters of concern to the international community.